(b) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) there has been reduction in ADC per minute rates which has become possible as a result of subscriber growth especially in Mobile segment and resultant increases in the minutes that fund the ADC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

Benefits to an average MTNL subscriber

344. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite increase in the profits of MTNL no improvement have been brought in the phone network for the benefit of average subscriber;

(b) whether it is also a fact that phone call costs, internet connectivity and durations of calls are still deterrent factors for marginal subscribers such as students, pensioners and other fixed income groups; and

(c) whether Government are considering any steps to help such subscribers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Government's policies in respect of Nepal

345. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, especially from our national security point of view, stability, peace and economic progress of Nepal has been significant;

(b) whether Government have been pursuing appropriate policies in respect of neighbouring countries, particularly, Nepal;

(c) salient features thereof, including of the status of monitoring